

USX/Wisconsin Steel Slips Meeting  
June 10, 2002

Participants

Jeanne Griffin, USEPA  
Tom Crausse, Illinois EPA  
Mark Wagner, Illinois EPA  
Bruce Everets, Illinois EPA  
Donald Wadleigh, USACE  
Jeff Zucker, USACE  
Rosita Clarke, USEPA  
Robert Thompson, ORC  
Tom Martin, ORC  
Bonnie Eleder, USEPA  
Marc Klevs, USEPA

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



366872

The purpose of this meeting was to exchange information among U.S. EPA, Illinois EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding activities on the Calumet River by the USACE and the slips adjacent to the former USX Steel and Wisconsin Steel sites by USEPA and Illinois EPA.

U.S. EPA provided a brief history and status of activities that U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA have undertaken at the slips. In 2000 the community petitioned for a PA at the slips and work took place between 2000 and 2001. Illinois EPA staff provided a summary of PA/SI sampling events and results.

USACE provided general information on the Calumet River dredging planning activities for 2003. Navigational Dredging is generally done on a phased approach and as funding is available. For 2003, some areas near the Wisconsin Steel Site will be dredged. Turning basins are generally not dredged due to large volumes of sediments in the area. Main concerns are with the channel. Dredged material is disposed at the CDF located adjacent to USX, which is currently at 60% capacity. After the 2003 dredging, the CDF is expected to be at 75% capacity. USACE is looking for ways to prolong the life of the CDF by looking at Beneficial uses for the sediments in the CDF.

The CDF is specifically for dredged material from navigational dredging activities. Only about 10% of the capacity could be used for Environmental Dredging, which would be up to approximately 160,000 yards. When dredging for Environmental reasons (contaminated sediments) USACE can perform these activities but it is paid by owner/operator or user of the slips. A project Operation Agreement is put in place. A non-federal agency can also fund these activities.

USACE can also undertake Environmental Dredging activities with a 65/35 cost share, but this type of funding is not available readily and 2005 would be the earliest for this type of funding.

Bruce E. (IEPA) - **Wisconsin Steel Slips** sampling results. North slip was found to have less contaminant levels than the south slip. PNAs and some PCBs found. Levels above background and above the EcoTox and Ontario Sediment levels. Highest sample location X218, adjacent to slip where it is believed that Acme Steel had some discharges. Wisconsin Steel's Coke operations was also along this south slip area. From the HRS perspective, there are potential impacts from the slips to the river.

Mark Wagner (IEPA)- **USX Slips** sampling results varied from the Wisconsin Steel in that the levels found were inorganics 3 times the background. When compared with the Ontario Levels, Levels were found to have moderate to severe effects.

USACE - recommended that we obtain sediment sampling data that Corps collects prior to dredging activities. Based on preliminary review, it is believed that contaminant levels found in the slips are not that much higher than those in the river.

One key issue that was discussed was the need to determine what the future use of the properties adjacent to the slips would be and how the slips may be used in the future. If these areas were to have a future commercial use for example, and the slips were to be used, then navigational dredging could be justified, if dredging is needed

Questions that arose at the meeting need to be resolved or at least looked into prior to the next meeting which was set for July 11, 2002. These issues are also key in determining what the next steps should be

Follow-up action items:

- 1) Determine if Removal Action/Assessment is warranted; provide copies of the Reports to Bill Bolen. What are the next steps that Illinois EPA and US. EPA believe should take place? **Illinois EPA (Bruce Everets) will contact Bill Bolen.**
- 2) Begin communication with City of Chicago regarding these site and their potential future use. The future use of the property and potential use of the slips would be key in determining what the next steps could be. **Mardi Klevs and Rosita Clarke will contact the City of Chicago**
- 3) Need to compare data with USACE sampling data. **Illinois EPA will contact person at the state or the USACE, with that information.**
- 4) Need to Investigate Illinois State Law - who owns the bottom of the slips? **Tom Martin and Rob Thompson will investigate further and contact Bert Fry in ORC.**
- 5) 104 (e) requests could be made to the City and owner/user of the slips, (PRPs?) This will provide more information as to who the PRPs are
- 6) Need to assign a RPM prior to next meeting set for July 11, 2002. The group felt that an

RPM to be involved in the early discussions would be necessary. **Rosita will discuss with management**